



Ringwood School

Year 8 into 9 Curriculum Options

2025/26



In Year 9 everyone will study English, Maths, Science, French/ Spanish, P.E., IT and Computing, PSHE, Geography, History and Religious Studies.

You will then choose:

- 3 further subjects.
- You can also choose to swap 2 of the 4 PE lessons to Performing Arts if you love to Sing and Dance!

OPTION 1: CHOOSE 3 CREATIVE SUBJECTS

You will have three double lessons and three single lesson per fortnight for creativity. We would like you to tell us what you would prefer to do in each of these lessons from the list below.

Art
Textiles
Drama: Acting
Drama: Design
Food
Music with Music Technology
DT- Timbers & Metals
Graphics
Media



OPTION 2: AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE AND 2 CREATIVE SUBJECTS

All students will continue to study the language that they started with in Year 7 unless they have literacy support. However, some of you may wish to study the other language that we offer at Ringwood (French or Spanish) as well!

If you choose French or Spanish, you need to select just two creative subjects from the list above.

** A few students that needed a little more support with their literacy, had studied Spanish in Years 7 & 8. If you are one of these students, you can continue with Spanish but need to pick it here.*



HOW TO DECIDE WHAT YOUR PREFERRED SUBJECTS ARE:

Whilst it is important that you prioritise subjects that you enjoy, you should also think about which subjects teach the skills that you will find most useful later in life and enable you to achieve highly with the talents that you have.

Please don't prioritise a subject because you are hoping to get a particular teacher or be with friends (as there is no guarantee that you will get either!).

This booklet will help guide you as it details a bit more about the subjects on offer.

Equally, just because you choose it in Year 9, it doesn't mean that you have to take that subject in Year 10 & 11.



ART:

Art in Year 9 is full of excitement and creativity. Studying it allows you to build the art skills that you have developed already, whilst also moving you on to more challenging and independent work. You will find that having a double lesson makes a huge difference to the work that you can produce and the progress you will make.

As well as drawing and painting, you will be able to use new techniques and ways of working including printmaking, sculpture, photography and digital art.

You will study artists and art movements, both historical and contemporary, learn to respond creatively to a set theme and keep high quality supporting studies in your sketchbook. You will be able to pursue your own ideas around a theme as the course progresses.



A final piece for your project will give you a chance to express yourself and to think creatively, linking your learning together and making choices about materials and media.

The creative art industries include a huge range of opportunities and exciting careers; Year 9 Art can be a first step towards this destination.

The Year 9 Art course is also full of chances to work imaginatively, will help you extend your art skills and act as a fantastic taster for GCSE Art and Design.

TEXTILES:

In year 9 Textiles, you will explore artists and designers and learn how to create practical responses through a wide variety of creative textile techniques, drawing and working from your own photographs.

You will develop ideas in response to a variety of themes, gearing these to your own area of interest.

You will produce personal outcomes that showcases the new skills and techniques you have learned. Techniques will include learning how to use the sewing machine to construct textile outcomes and to create decorative stitching. Other techniques include methods of embellishing and manipulating fabrics such as weaving, hand embroidery, applique, block and mono printing, heat transfer using hand and digital methods, wet and dry felting, fabric painting, pleating, smocking and dyeing.

This course will be a taster for GCSE Textiles and will build your confidence with textile materials and techniques. You will gain an understanding of the developmental journey undertaken at GCSE from research to experimentation, recording and presenting your work, through to your final outcome.



DRAMA: CHOOSE ACTING OR DESIGN



For the first time drama students will be able to choose an ACTING or DESIGN in their Year 9 creative options. For both courses you will explore a range of genres and styles of drama throughout the year. You will explore various techniques and learn how to create work for performance on stage. We will also be offering the opportunity to London on the Year 9 Drama residential- an overnight stay which includes theatre visits, workshop and more! This course is different to Performing Arts as you will be focusing solely on Drama (ACTING or DESIGN) and how to further your knowledge on ways to structure and create your own work.

Drama- ACTING

You will cover a range of topics:
Scripted work
Devised project
Understanding and evaluating live theatre



Drama- DESIGN

You will learn the basics of:
Costume, makeup and mask
Set and props
Short intro to lighting and sound

Many students who have followed the Year 9 Drama course decide to take GCSE Drama which includes: performance of/design for script, devising from stimuli and watching live theatre. You do not have to take Drama just because you want to be an actor or designer. Drama offers you the chance to develop skills which are transferable to other subjects such as teamwork, communication skills, social skills, leadership, creative thinking, negotiation, self-awareness and language skills.

FOOD:



If you choose the Food pathway you will have one double lesson per week throughout the year, cooking every other week.

You will explore a range of cooking theory and practical skills throughout the year. You investigate the use of ingredients within a recipe and learn various cooking techniques to produce highly skilled dishes.

The aim is that you expand your knowledge and understanding of food and nutrition by cooking every fortnight in order to plan and create your own dishes.

You will cover a range of topics: Nutrition, Raising agents, The functions of eggs in cookery and Foods from around the world.

Many students who have followed the Year 9 Food and Nutrition course decide to take GCSE Food preparation and Nutrition or Level 1/2 in Hospitality and Catering. For both courses you would cook or carry out a food experiment every week.

MUSIC AND MUSIC TECHNOLOGY:



The 'Music and Music Technology Pathway' is for everyone! You do not need to be able to play an instrument, have individual instrumental lessons or read music to take this pathway.

The pathway will include (per fortnight) a lesson of music, a lesson of music technology and one lesson which combines all the skills. You will also have the chance to have some small group lessons on a variety of instruments including trumpet, drum kit, guitar, bass guitar and keyboards. These lessons will take place in the first term. There will be no charge for these lessons.

During lessons you will use a variety of music programs including Ignite and Cubase to compose, sequence, record and perform music in a range of different styles.

During the year the topics covered will include:

- Film and TV Music
- Pop music performance
- Song writing
- Music for special occasions
- Audio recording (using microphones)
- Creating a remix

Music teaches skills such as resilience, creativity, concentration, determination, independence, collaboration, perseverance and motor skills. Even if you don't want to pursue music in the future, you will gain a lot from taking this pathway!

Many students who have followed the Year 9 Music and Music Technology course decide to take either Music GCSE or BTEC Music (Technology) as they have gained in skills and confidence.

Edexcel GCSE Music includes: performing, composing and listening.

BTEC Music (Technology) includes: the Music industry, managing a Music product, composition, audio recording and sequencing.

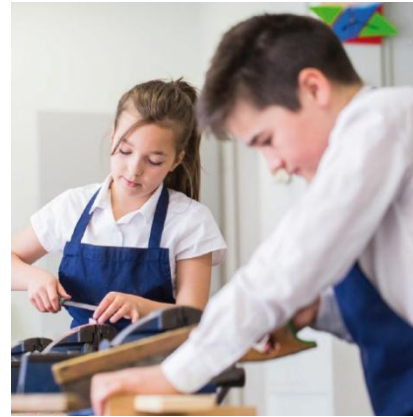
TECHNOLOGY: TIMBERS & METALS

If you choose the Technology: Timbers & Metals pathway you will explore a range of production techniques and materials used in manufacturing and engineering. This course will prepare you with the appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding ready to undertake a GCSE level qualification in either Design or Engineering. This course will be delivered through a sequence of projects lasting approximately 1 term each and will focus on the following key areas;

- Traditional Drawing & Design skills
- CAD/CAM – inc. Solidworks, Techsoft & Laser Cutting
- Workshop skills – Timbers, Plastics & Metals
- Basic Electronic circuits and components

You will also broaden your mind about the world, people and the environment by studying the effects of products on the environment, finding out how products are made and work and manufacture things using different materials.

Many students who study Technology at year 9 choose to continue onto a GCSE and some pursue this interest into the sixth form to study an A level in Product Design.



The Year 9 course is suitable for all students and if you opt for Technology, you will be given the opportunity to be creative, solve real problems and learn skills that you will use in a future job!

You will also have the opportunity to get involved in department extracurricular opportunities such as the Bournemouth Rotary Technology Tournament.

GRAPHICS

The Year 9 Graphics route on the Tech Pathway will allow you to be creative, use your existing DT skills and develop many new ones too.

You will work on several practical projects and create a portfolio to feel proud of by the end of the year.

The 3 main projects will last one term each and will include architectural modelling, using the heat presses to make promotional materials. You will also design and make lighting and stationery packaging. You will be able to use a range of different materials but learn mostly about Graphic materials such as card, boards, papers and plastics.



If you like bringing ideas on the computer and on paper to life and have enjoyed the previous LUSH soap box packaging project, then this course is 100% for you!



Students that have typically enjoyed this route in Year 9 have continued on to study the GCSE Papers and Boards (Graphics) course.

MEDIA

The Year 9 Creative Media course introduces students to a broad range of exciting media formats and gives them the chance to learn how professional media products are planned, created and edited. This is a hands-on and engaging option that helps students explore their creativity across both digital and print media.

Over the year, students will gain practical experience in:

- Advertising photography and lighting techniques
- Video storyboarding, filming and editing
- Print design for Posters, Magazines and Newspapers
- Digital design for Social Media (e.g. Instagram triptychs)



Students will develop skills in software such as Photoshop, InDesign, Canva and Adobe Express to produce a variety of media content. Lessons include a mix of creative planning, practical production and inspiration from real-world media examples. While there are some opportunities for collaborative work, students will mostly work independently to build a digital portfolio of media products. The final project challenges them to bring together their new skills by creating a professional-style awareness campaign, combining both video and print elements.

This course provides a fantastic taster of GCSE Media Studies and also supports creative pathways into other subjects like Graphics, Art and Design, or Photography. It's not required to take Media in Year 9 to study it at GCSE, but it can give students a valuable head start.

SPANISH

Year 9 Spanish has a communicative and active approach.

You will build on your knowledge of learning a language from learning French in Years 7 and 8 to learn how to give and obtain information in Spanish on a range of topic areas and you will be working towards being able to practise the following skills:



- In Listening & Reading: Understanding key classroom commands, recognising the present and the immediate future tenses, understanding longer passages containing opinions and justifications with both familiar and unfamiliar language. We also like to show you authentic Spanish videos and newspaper articles to see what you can already work out.
- In Speaking & Writing: Responding to a range of questions including the present and immediate future tenses, developing longer answers/sentences using connectives and time phrases and including descriptions, opinions and justifications.
- Translation: Translating familiar sentences and short paragraphs into both Spanish and English.
- Pronunciation: Developing the accuracy of pronunciation and intonation.

FRENCH

Year 9 French has a communicative and active approach.

You will build on your knowledge of learning a language from learning Spanish in Years 7 and 8 to learn how to give and obtain information in French on a range of topic areas and you will be working towards being able to practise the following skills:



- In Listening & Reading: Understanding key classroom commands, recognising the present, past (passé composé) and the immediate future tenses, understanding longer passages containing opinions and justifications with both familiar and unfamiliar language. We also like to show you authentic French videos and newspaper articles to see what you can already work out.
- In Speaking & Writing: Responding to a range of questions including the present, past and immediate future tenses, developing longer answers/sentences using connectives and time phrases and including descriptions, opinions and justifications.
- Translation: Translating familiar sentences and short paragraphs into both French and English.
- Pronunciation: Developing the accuracy of pronunciation and intonation.